



July 2021

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Windward Orchid News

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www.windwardorchidsociety.org

A Message From Our Director



Aloha WOS Members –

This past weekend was our first ever, open air Country Store and Plant Sale. There were a lot of great deals and we had some wonderful volunteers that worked tirelessly on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday BEFORE the event – so that it would come off without a hitch. I think we did a pretty successful job – and the recap of the event tells all! We are looking to possibly do this again so make sure you watch your newsletter for the details.

Covid update – The most often made comment at the Country Store event was “when are we going to be meeting again?” It seems things are starting to open up – we have submitted a request to rent the school cafeteria for upcoming monthly meetings, but until we hear anything from King Intermediate all we can do is wait. The meetings will ALSO be dependent on how many people are ready and allowed to attend an indoor meeting. The W.O.S. does not want to incur the expenses of rental, speaker fees and give away plants, if we are not going to be fully open. So PLEASE be patient – we have all of our collective safety in mind, and we will open up and have meetings as soon as we are able!

MAHALO!

Sharon Harwood, Director

Walter Hiraishi

Dendrobium x usitae



Our Website is still being worked on however there are new Orchids Unmasked, go check them out. Please still send your ORCHID E.R. and ORCHIDS UNMASKED pictures & information to us.

eMail Address: WOS808@yahoo.com

Windward Orchid Society Cookbook, 2nd Edition needs your recipes

Please help us create a 2nd Edition of our popular cookbook.

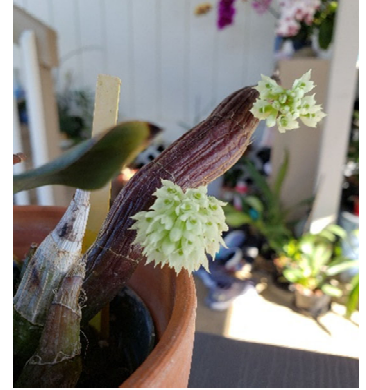
Email your favorite recipes to wpathways@gmail.com

**WOS
Corner**



Windward Orchid Society Membership for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Please complete and mail the form below to
Windward Orchid Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 23
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744



_____ **NEW MEMBER** _____ **RENEWAL**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____ **Work:** _____

eMail: _____

Please select your Membership for 2021-2022:

- _____ **Regular Membership - \$25.00**
_____ **Regular & Associate (Partner) Membership - \$35.00**
_____ **Associate (Partner) Only Membership* - \$10.00**
_____ **Lifetime Membership - \$300.00**
_____ **Donation - \$ _____**

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Please make check out to "WOS" or "Windward Orchid Society"

***Associate Membership must be attached to an existing Membership
(i.e. Lifetime, Honorary, or Regular Membership)**



As we start this new Membership Year (2021-2022)
we hope to see everyone REAL soon.

Orchids Unmasked Photos (l to r, top to bottom) Grown By:
Bianca Kam (Lc Golden Tang), Sharon Matsuyama (Den. Capituliflorum),
Diane Robello (Cattleya Tainan City BT)





SUCCESSFUL WOS COUNTRY STORE EVENT



Special shout out to all our partners who helped make this possible

WOS MEMBERSHIP

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Like our Spring Show, this first time ever Country Store Event was open to family & friends of WOS members. Great attendance with many shoppers coming in off the highway to check out the items, plant sales, and learn about WOS. One shopper, Dr. Michael Caliri, pulled up as we were tearing down. He assisted greatly by taking the remaining country store plants off our hands for a generous donation! And, of course, information about WOS.

Practicing social distancing and mask wearing members were able to visit and enjoy each other's company and at the same time we were able to clear out some of the items which had been in storage due to the last 2 cancelled Spring Shows. We also collected a respectable amount of food donations for the windward side, 160 pounds.

We raised close to \$1,100.00!! The funds from this event will help to continue to support Windward Orchid Society's mission. Even though we have not yet been able to meet in person the storage & newsletter expenses are ongoing. This event was a definite boost to our coffers!

The event was well received and there is potential for another one. Keep tuned in and let the board know how you would like to assist. By the way, WOS still needs a few positions filled. Come be a part of this great organization. Many hands make light work. Especially during the last crazy 15 months, plants & gardening have been the solace of many, and our club is now more important than ever.

Special Mahalo for Country Store event helpers

Jodi Aragon
Sheron Harwood
Kanoë
Toni Palermo

Stephen Canham
Ariel Harwood
Scot Mitamura
Wendy Saito

Fran & Billy Craft
Walter & Ruby Hiraishi
Arthur Nakamura
Toni Walker



Orchid Tip of the Month by Scot Mitamura

As we approach what appears to be a very dry summer, we need to be conscious of our watering of our orchids. But how many of us actually know how to water and what is accomplished by a good watering.

First of all, know the water requirements of the different types of orchids you have and how they are potted.

Most of the orchids we grow are of the epiphytic type (growing on another plant), have a thick root surrounded by velamin. These types of roots like to dry slightly between watering. So, you would probably not water them every day, unless they were mounted or in a hanging pot or basket, then you could water them daily. Watering frequency would be determined by the season (day length), heat (light intensity), wind (air movement), type of media, and type of pot. Kind of complicated yeah, so you need to pay attention to the environment and the different orchids in your collection.

Terrestrial orchids have fine hairy roots and require a potting medium that is kept evenly moist, all the time. They will probably need daily watering and a finer type of potting medium. It is a good idea to keep these orchids separate from the epiphytic ones, except the ones that are mounted or hanging.

So now that we have things organized, we must water correctly and with a purpose. I personally prefer to hand water my orchids. I learned that you should "water like a monsoon, then water again, then again". This allows the water to drain through the potting medium flushing out toxic salts that can build up in the media, compared to light frequent watering or through an irrigation system.

I urge everyone to observe an orchid growing in a clear pot being watered, you will be shocked at how unevenly the water percolates through. Even after multiple waterings, there will be dry spots in the media! I water each of my orchids four times from each direction, from each side, on top and underneath the leaves; after all we wash under our arms, right? Other benefits from watering this way are that you strongly discourage insects (scales, mealy bugs, thrips) and spiders (mites) from feeding and nesting in the safe dry haven under the leaves and sheaths. Yes, water is a great pesticide.

In controlling most of your small pests your objective is to disrupt their, feeding and breeding. Water droplets are much larger than them and will surely disrupt them, thus minimizing your need to use harsher chemicals. Other benefits from watering this way are that you will notice insect and slug/snail problems and be able to treat them before the situation becomes really bad. How many of us realize that one of the worst pests in orchids is weeds.

Continued on next page.....



THE UNIQUE & UNUSUAL

Prior newsletters we showed you an orchid that looked like a Monkey and then a native Hawaiian Orchid that is on the endangered list.

What about Unusual Mounting – this is a miniature orchid mounted on a Pine Cone!! I guess you really can try just about anything!!!

Orchid Tip Continued.....

Well as you water, you will see these weeds, so you can pull them before they seed. How about noticing orchids that have fallen over or have gotten overcrowded or are covering a smaller orchid not giving it enough sunlight and air. What about noticing orchids that need re-potting. I say that hand watering allows you to bond with your collection, keeping you in touch with your orchids.

I have seen it happen so many times where the grower depends of their irrigation system, only to be completely unaware of problems lurking in their collections. I often get asked about Reverse Osmosis systems to improve your water quality. Yes, they are great, but in my opinion not essential to be a good orchid grower in Hawaii. We have great water in Hawaii!

We often confuse hard water stains on the orchid foliage and greenhouses with irrigation systems that are used to chemigate (inject pesticides or fertilizers into the irrigation water), and that are run at a low volume (small orifice/droplet size) and for a short duration. The water droplets atomize and dry on the foliage, leaving the hard water stains. The media never gets properly flushed and salts accumulate in the media to toxic levels where the orchid's roots eventually die.

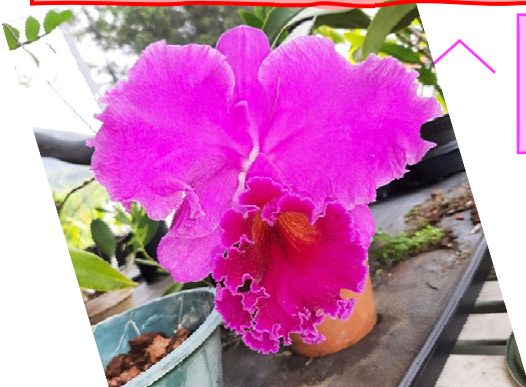
I look at irrigation systems as a convenience to the grower, but a detriment to the orchids. Of course, if your collection is large, you will at some point need an irrigation system, so if this happens, install that RO System, keep your volume higher and your duration longer, maintain a high Cation Exchange Capacity in your media (normally with peat moss infused with mycorrhiza) allowing you to minimize the need to over fertilize.

Remember fertilizers are soluble salts, this will cause much more salt damage than our water in Hawaii. So, let's get out there and form a relationship with our orchid collection and hand water with a purpose.

Aloha,
Scot

NOTE FROM INTERIM EDITOR:

I believe Scot is missing the Monthly meetings more & more as his Tips are getting longer & longer. He needs an outlet again to talk to people about all his orchid wisdom. Soon it will just be the Scot Mitamura Newsletter. LOL 😂 You da BEST Scot & we are so happy to have you guide us!!



Debbie Oshima
Blc Mem Grant Eichler
'Lennette'

Bianca Kam
Lc Sheila Lauterbach
'Equilab'



WOS Officers 2019-2021: President (Vacant) Vice-President Karen Kim Treasurer Ariel Harwood
Recording Secretary: (Vacant) Corresponding Secretary (Vacant) Trustees: (2017-2021) Steve Canham
C.J. Kalopodes Scot Mitamura (2018-2021) Duncan Chun Wendy Saito Dot Sakamoto (2019-2022) Arthur Nakagawa
Toni Walker Fred Collins Director Sheron Harwood Membership Grace Nishigaya Hospitality/Refreshments (Vacant)

Mail correspondence to: Windward Orchid Society, Inc. P.O. Box 23 Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

The WOS meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the King Intermediate School Cafeteria (except in June & December), unless otherwise rescheduled by a pandemic.